

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071362

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 FILE-01 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: KKURZE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 071362

EXDIS TODEP 52

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE INFO AMMAN KUWAIT LONDON SANAA  
TEHRAN FROM JIDDA APRIL 16, RPTD TO YOU:

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH

QUOTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 1539

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, MASS, SA, YE, IZ

SUBJECT: YAR REQUEST FOR URGENT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE:  
PENINSULA DEFENSE DISCUSSED WITH PRINCE FAHD

REF: A. STATE 66153; B. STATE 66350

SUMMARY: PRINCE FAHD WELL PLEASED WITH US PROPOSALS  
FOR ASSISTING YEMEN MILITARILY AS DESCRIBED BY AMBASSADOR.  
FAHD REVIEWED CHARACTER OF THREAT FROM PDRY AND IRAQ. THOUGHT  
CLASH BETWEEN SAG AND PDRY INEVITABLE. AMB URGED REGIONAL  
ACTION FOR STRENGTHENING PENINSULA SECURITY WITH US REMAINING  
BEHIND SCENES GIVING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. IT IMPORTANT  
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PAGE 02 STATE 071362

THAT AGGRESSOR ROLE, IF THERE IS TO BE ONE, SHOULD BE LEFT TO PDRY TO AVOID GIVING IRAQ ANY EXCUSE TO INTERVENE. FAHD'S REMARKS AND OTHER AVAILABLE EVIDENCE INDICATE SAUDI POLICY AT MOMENT IS TO PREPARE MAKE GOOD SHOWING IN SOUTH IF COMPELLED TO, WHILE CONTINUING POLICY OF LYING LOW ALONG IRAQI BORDER. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING MY MEETING EARLIER IN DAY WITH PRINCE SULTAN, CALLED ON PRINCE FHAD APRIL 14 AND DESCRIBED TO HIM IN SUMMARY FASHION COURSES OF ACTION WE PROPOSED TO HELP STRENGTHEN YAR MILITARILY AS DESCRIBED REFTEL A. SAID I HAD BEEN THROUGH THESE PROPOSALS IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WITH PRINCE SULTAN AND FOUND HIM ENTHUSIASTIC. WE MOST ANXIOUS THERE SHOULD BE PROMPT ACTION TO DELIVER SOME ITEMS AT ONCE TO YEMENIS. TOLD FAHD ALSO OF OUR SUMMARY OF OUTLOOK FOR PDRY AND IRAQ, AND THAT HE MIGHT WISH RECEIVE COPY FROM FONMINISTRY ( REFTEL B).

2. FAHD EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION AND LAUNCHED INTO HIS CONCEPT OF NATURE OF RADICAL TREAT TO PENINSULA ON LINES WITH WHICH WE FAIRLY FAMILIAR. HE STRESSED THAT ALL OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, WITH EXCEPTION IRAQ, WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY ON SAG MILITARY HELP TO YAR, INCLUDING EVEN LIBYA. SOVIETS AND COMMUNIST CHINESE EVALUATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR SOUTH YEMEN AS BEING EVEN MORE EFFECTIVELY DISRUPTIVE THAN AID TO EGYPT. DEVELOPMENT OF SAUDI STRENGTH IS MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE DETERRENT. FAHD CLAIMED " WE HAVE NEWS" OF PROBABLE FURTHER PDRY ATTACK AGAINST WUDIA AND SHARURA. IN THIS SOUTH YEMEN IS SIMPLY FOLLOWING DICTATES OF SOVIETS AND CHINESE. CLASH BETWEEN SAG AND PDRY THUS SEEMS INEVITABLE. SAUDIS WELL AWARE THAT IRAQ MIGHT CREATE TROUBLE ALSO IF PDRY WERE TO ATTACK. FAHD WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT WE HAD ALREADY RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO SAG REQUEST FOR EXPEDITING DELIVERY OF F-5 AMMUNITION. " IF WE ARE WEAK." HE COMMENTED, " OUR OWN PEOPLE WILL TURN AGAINST US." SAUDI ARABIA IS DELIGHTED WITH THIS NEW EVIDENCE OF US INTEREST IN SUPPORTING ITS INDEPENDENCE AND KNOWS THAT IN CASE OF NEED US WILL ALWAYS " STAND BY OUR SIDE." AND THAT SAUDI ARABIA COULD COUNT ON US.

3. AS I HAD WITH SULTAN, I FOUND OCCASION REPEAT DESCRIPTION OUR PHILOSOPHY WITH REGARD PENINSULA SECURITY. SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 071362

IT MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRIES OF ENTIRE REGION WORK

TOGETHER FOR THIS PURPOSE. US WOULD REMAIN BEHIND SCENES  
AND GIVE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. SAUDI ARABIA HAD  
IMPORTANT TASK TO PERFORM IN STRENGTHENING ITS OWN OUTER  
DEFENSES, I. E., JORDAN, YAR AND OMAN. MEANWHILE, THOUGH I  
WAS NO MILITARY TACTICIAN, IT SEEMED IMPORTANT SAUDI ARABIA  
PLAY THIS ROLE IN MANNER WHICH WOULD ALWAYS ASSURE THAT SOUTH  
YEMEN, IF IT FELT IT MUST, WOULD BE CAST AS AGGRESSOR.  
CERTAINLY, SAUDI ARABIA WOULD WISH AVOID GIVING IRAQ ANY EXCUSE  
TO INTERVENE. FAHD AGREED BUT DECLARED DIFFICULTY IS, OF  
COURSE, IRAQI RULERS DO NOT REALLY WISH STABILITY.

4. COMMENT: FAHD ALSO MADE PASSING REFERENCE TO " NEAR CLASH"  
BETWEEN SAUDI AND IRAQI FORCES RECENTLY ALONG BORDER. THIS  
WOULD BE SIMPLY MOVEMENT OF ELEMENTS FORWARD WITH SUBSEQUENT  
WITHDRAWAL MENTIONED TO ME BY TURKI AND PHARAON ( JIDDA 1065  
AND 1223), BUT I DID NOT PRESS FAHD FOR DETAILS BECAUSE OF SAUDI  
INCLINATION AS REFLECTED BOTH BY FAHD AND DEPUTY DEFMINISTER  
PRINCE TURKI TO AFFIRM VIGOROUSLY SAUDI EXPECTATIONS WITH  
REGARD USG ACTION WHEN SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE IRAQI MOVES COMES UP.  
IT CLEAR SAUDIS HAVE MUCH IN THEIR  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

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